

# Make Your Own Green Roof Gingerbread House!

## Materials Needed:

- Gingerbread house templates (found on our website)
- Scissors
- Your favorite gingerbread recipe
- Baking sheet
- Rolling pin
- Sharp knife (parents should help with this part, please)
- Icing for house construction
- Aluminum foil
- Potting soil
- Grass seed
- Water
- Decorating items (various types of candy, colored icing, etc.)

## Instructions:

1. Retrieve templates for the gingerbread house from [www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov). Cut them out and set to the side.
2. Use your favorite gingerbread recipe to make the dough. If you don't have a favorite, a quick Internet search will yield some wonderful results.
3. Roll out gingerbread dough on a baking sheet. Place the previously cut paper templates on the rolled out dough. Using a sharp, straight-edged knife, cut out each house section using the templates as a guide. Keep your templates handy so they can be used to trim the gingerbread when it comes out of the oven.
4. Construct your gingerbread house using icing as the glue.
5. Decorate the exterior of your gingerbread house.
6. Now it's time for the green roof! Take aluminum foil and line the interior of the roof. This will prevent the green roof's water and soil from damaging the rest of your gingerbread house. You might want to "glue" the aluminum foil down with a few dabs of icing, just to make sure it stays in place.
7. Add potting soil. Cover the whole roof with about ½ inch of the potting soil mix.
8. Add a handful of grass seed to the potting soil mix on the roof. Make sure the seed is evenly distributed across the roof and into the potting soil. Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty!

9. Plants need sunlight and water to help them grow. Be sure to put your gingerbread house in an area that gets sunlight. You'll also need to water your gingerbread house's green roof every couple of days, or when the soil feels dry. In no time, you'll have a lush green roof!

## Why make a green roof?

A green roof has many benefits: reducing the amount of water run off from buildings during a storm; cooling down cities during hot summers, releasing more oxygen into the air and helping homeowners keep down the cost of heating and cooling their homes. Find out more at [www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov).

